

Training Manual for USDA Standards for Grading Slaughter Animals



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Based on Fred L. Williams, Jr.'s
A Notebook of Ramblings about Livestock Evaluation and Grading
by Fred L. Williams, Jr. (1991)

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Beef Quality & Yield Grading	Segregating Slaughter Cows
Feeder Cattle Grades	Beef Yield Grades
Slaughter Hog Grading	Slaughter Lamb Grading
	Animal Science Terms

SLAUGHTER GOAT GRADING

Goats are something that has gained interest rapidly and recently. There are no official goat grade standards. These specifications are used and were developed by the Livestock and Grain Market News Branch for describing goats for market news purpose. Goats should be classified according to the following criteria.

A) Type

- i) Meat
- ii) Angora
- iii) Dairy

B) Use

- i) Slaughter
- ii) Replacement

C) Age Classifications

Description

Kids
Yearling
Billy
Nanny
Mutton

Definition

Under 9 months of age, male or female
9-16 months of age
Uncastrated male over 12 months of age
Mature female over 16 months of age or earlier bred
Castrated male of any age

B) Quality

i) Selection No. 1- Selection No. 1 live goats and/or carcasses have a superior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be thickly muscled throughout the body as indicated by a pronounced (bulging) outside leg (biceps femoris and semitendinosus), a full (rounded) back strip (longissimus dorsi), and a moderately thick outside shoulder (triceps brachii group).



Selection 1

ii) Selection No. 2- Selection No. 2 live goats and/or carcasses have an average meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. They shall be moderately muscled throughout the body as indicated by a slightly thick and a slightly pronounced outside leg (biceps femoris and semitendinosus), a slightly full (flat or slightly shallow) back strip (longissimus dorsi), and a slightly thick to slightly thin outside shoulder (triceps brachii group).



iii) Selection No. 3- Selection No. 3 live goats and /or carcasses have an inferior meat type conformation without regard to the presence of fat cover. The legs, back, and shoulders are narrow in relation with its length and they have very angular and sunken appearance.



Selection 3

iv) Utility- Utility goats exhibit symptoms of poor management including nutrition, parasite control or genetic deficiencies. Utility goats are very thin fleshed with a hair coat that is rough and dull in appearance.